

Message Text

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12

ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 PM-03

SS-15 INR-07 RSC-01 /067 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
NEA/ARN - MR. KORN
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

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R 312122Z JAN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
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USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
CINCEUR

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 31, 1975:

QUOTE: Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON THE REPORTS OF THE
LARGE INJECTION OF IRANIAN CAPITAL INTO PAN AM AND THE WHOLE
QUESTION OF MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENTS?

A. YES. I CANNOT GIVE YOU VERY MUCH ON THIS. THE DEPART-
MENT WAS BRIEFED BY PAN AMERICAN YESTERDAY AFTERNOON ON THIS
SUBJECT, AND WE ARE SYMPATHETIC WITH PAN AMERICAN'S PROBLEM.
NOW, WE ARE CONSIDERING THE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN
PAN AMERICAN AND IRAN. ON THIS SUBJECT, AS I HEARD ONE OR
TWO -- I DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER YOU DIDN'T HEAR WHAT WAS SAID,
OR WHETHER YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THE STORY WAS. ON BACK-
GROUND, IT IS EVIDENTLY A \$300 MILLION LOAN OFFER BY IRAN TO
PAN AMERICAN.

Q. THERE IS A LITTLE MORE TO IT, ACCORDING TO THE WALL
STREET JOURNAL. DO YOU CONFIRM THAT THOSE POINTS CARRIED

IN IT ARE CORRECT?

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A. I HAVE NOT SEEN THAT. I READ A COUPLE OF OTHER
STORIES. I DIDN'T READ THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Q. IT CONCERNS A 55 PERCENT INTEREST IN THE HOTEL CHAIN,
LESS THAN 10 PERCENT INTEREST IN THE AIRLINE, A LOAN, AND
A NUMBER OF OTHER POINTS WHICH I FORGET AT THE MOMENT.

A. I CANNOT CONFIRM THAT. I WILL SEE IF I CAN GET SOME-

THING FOR YOU ON IT.

Q. ON THE SPECIFIC DETAILS.

A. AT THIS POINT WE ARE CONSIDERING IT. AND I MIGHT MAKE ONE POINT HERE. THE DECISION, FINAL DECISION ON THIS, NATURALLY IS WITH THE CAB. IT IS NOT WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

Q. THEY MUST APPROVE IT, IS THAT IT?

A. IT IS THE CAB DECISION.

Q. YOU MEAN THIS CANNOT TAKE EFFECT UNLESS THERE IS A GOVERNMENTAL ASSENT TO IT, AND THAT IS GIVEN BY THE CAB?

A. THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING, YES.

Q. AND IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONSULTED ON THAT?

A. WELL, WE WERE BRIEFED YESTERDAY BY PAN AMERICAN AND OTHERS.

Q. DOES CAB ASK FOR A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

A. THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING, YES. WE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH THE CAB.

Q. I THINK TWO PRESS CONFERENCES AGO THE SECRETARY OF STATE REFERRED TO A STUDY IN THE DEPARTMENT ABOUT THE WHOLE ISSUE OF MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT IN AMERICAN INDUSTRY. DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT STUDY?

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A. THE STUDY HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED. IT IS STILL BEING CONSIDERED. I THINK THERE IS ONE THING HERE, ON BACKGROUND -- THERE IS A QUESTION OF LOANS, AND THEN YOU HAVE TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF WHAT IS THE COLLATERAL THAT WILL BE PROVIDED FOR A LOAN. AND THEN YOU HAVE THE OTHER

PROBLEM WHICH IS THE QUESTION OF THE ACTUAL PURCHASING OF PART OWNERSHIP OF, SAY, AMERICAN FIRMS. THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT QUESTIONS HERE.

Q. WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER THIS ONE -- THE FORMER?

A. WELL, THIS IS A LOAN, AS I UNDERSTAND IT -- THIS IS A LOAN PROPOSAL BY THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT TO PAN AMERICAN OF

\$300 MILLION.

Q. WOULD IRAN GET A VOTING POSITION ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

A. I JUST DON'T KNOW. I DON'T HAVE THE DETAILS ON THAT.

Q. THE SCHEDULE IS NOT, I KNOW, SET YET. BUT WILL THE SECRETARY STOP IN EUROPE ON HIS WAY TO THE MIDDLE EAST, AS HE CUSTOMARILY DOES?

A. I WOULD HAVE TO CONFIRM TO YOU THE SCHEDULE IS NOT SET YET, AND I WILL JUST HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL, I HOPE, EARLY NEXT WEEK TO GIVE YOU THE DETAILS. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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